

REMARKS

The Applicants have carefully reviewed the Final Office Action of May 29, 2007, in which claims 1, 3-15, 17-54 and 59-62 are pending and have been rejected and claims 23-54, 61 and 62 have been withdrawn from consideration. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 14 have been amended and claims 63-67 have been added. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendment may be found in, for example, Figures 3 and 7 and in the paragraph beginning page 7. Moreover, new independent claim 67 is believed to be patentable over the cited prior art because, so far as applicants can tell, the claimed features are not disclosed in any single reference, nor are they obvious over any combination of references.

Claims 5 and 59-60 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 5, 12-13 and 59-60 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bonello et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,732,163 (hereinafter “Bonello”). Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonello in view of Richardson et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,673,025 (hereinafter “Richardson”). Claims 4, 14-15, 17 and 21-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonello in view of Mortier et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,372,144 (hereinafter Mortier). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonello in view of Palmer et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,544,231 (hereinafter “Palmer”). Claims 9-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonello in view of Cook et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,213,111 (hereinafter “Cook”). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonello in view of Cook further in view of Palmer. Claims 18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonello in view of Mortier further in view of Palmer. Claim 19 is rejected as being unpatentable over Bonello in view of Mortier further in view of Cook. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claim 1 currently recites a guidewire, comprising a core member, a tubular member and a coil member “wherein the coil member has an outer diameter and wherein the tubular member

has a maximum outer diameter that is less than the outer diameter of the coil member." In contrast Bonello discloses a tubular member 3 that does not have the distal end of the core member disposed in the lumen thereof or a tubular member 4 or 3 and 4 where the maximum outer diameter of the tubular member is not less than the outer diameter of the coil member. Bonello therefore does not disclose the catheter as claimed. Nor would modifying Bonello as suggested in view of the other cited references remedy this deficiency. For at least this reason, applicants submit that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. As claims 3, 4 and 6-13 depend therefrom and contain additional elements, applicants submit that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

As amended independent claim 14 currently recites "wherein the coil member has an outer diameter and wherein the tubular member has a maximum outer diameter that is less than the outer diameter of the coil member," applicants respectfully submit that this claim is also in condition for allowance for the reasons given above with respect to claim 1. As claims 15 and 17-22 depend therefrom and contain additional elements, applicants submit that these claims are also in condition for allowance.

Reexamination, reconsideration, and withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections are respectfully requested. It is submitted that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, and the issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,
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By their attorney,

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/j. scot wickhem/

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